

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

February 20, 2007

Number 6

Thanks to Councilmembers Sally Clark, David Della, Jan Drago and Jean Godden for attending the Association of Washington Cities Legislative Conference and meeting with many of the Seattle legislators to discuss Seattle's legislative agenda.

SESSION PRIORITIES

Education

HB 1365 provides trained home visitation services to newborns and their parent(s). The bill has been sent to the Appropriations Committee for consideration. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Civil Rights

SB 5330, changing requirements for the restoration of the right to vote for people convicted of felonies, was heard in the Government Operations & Elections Committee. It is scheduled to be voted out of committee on February 19. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1472 addresses racial disproportionality in the children's welfare system by creating a commission to analyze causes and to make recommendations to reduce disproportionality. The bill has been sent to the Appropriations Committee for consideration. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Environment

HB 1929, authorizing utilities to engage in environmental mitigation efforts, was heard in the Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on February 13. Thanks to Councilmember Godden and Seattle City Light's Peggy Duxbury for testifying in **support of the bill**. **SB 6046**, which mirrors the House bill, was introduced and referred to the Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee.

SB 6001, mitigating the impacts of climate change, was heard in the Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee. There are a number of areas this bill addresses, including establishing a state action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging utilities to invest in clean sources, and including language to address the recent State Supreme Court decision. Councilmember Godden did a wonderful job in testifying in **support of this bill**.

Infrastructure/Finance

SB 5089, which would implement the Streamlined Sales Tax provisions, was heard in the House Finance Committee on February 14. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

SB 5630, allowing local jurisdictions greater access to New Market Tax Credits, was passed out of the Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee and referred to the Rules Committee. The companion bill, **HB 1430**, is in the House Rules Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1992 would allow for a community development and preservation authority in Seattle. It would require the government to consult with the authority before siting major public projects defined as over \$10 million. It would also provide to be determined funding to help initiate this effort. This bill was heard on February 19.

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

HB 1921 (companion bill is **SB 5959**) provides rental assistance and case management services to homeless families and individuals, or families and individuals who are at-risk of becoming homeless. The bill was sent to the Appropriations Committee for consideration. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1115 creates a local planning process to end homelessness, funded by an additional \$10 real estate recording fee. The bill was sent to the Appropriations Committee for consideration. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1201 extends Medicaid for foster youth until age 21. This bill was heard in the Appropriations Committee on February 15. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Transportation

SB 5767 would amend the Transportation Benefit District statute to provide councilmanic authority over the first \$20 of the vehicle license fee. This bill will be heard in the Transportation Committee on February 22. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1812 creates a transportation contingency account for projects over \$1 billion. Any local sales tax created from a project would be placed in the account to be used for unanticipated increases in project cost. This bill will be heard in the Transportation Committee on February 21.

SB 5803 would create a 15-member Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) consisting of nine elected and six appointed officials. The RTC would be responsible for creating a regional investment mobility plan which must include highway and public transportation projects as well as sufficient revenues to finance the project. This plan would be put to the local voters for approval. The Commission would also become the Regional Transportation Planning

Organization (RTPO) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This bill will be heard in the Transportation Commission on February 22.

POLICY ISSUES

Domestic Violence Protections

SHB 1642, concerning criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders, was voted out of the Judiciary Committee. This bill clarifies what constitutes a violation of an order. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1520, concerning polygraph examinations of sexual assault victims, was voted out of the Judiciary Committee and referred to Rules. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit sexual assault victims from being polygraphed. **Seattle supports this measure.**

SHB 1555, addressing sexual assault protection orders, was voted out of the Judiciary Committee and is now in the Rules Committee. This bill provides that a sexual assault protection order is a remedy for victims who do not qualify for domestic violence protection orders. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1703, creating a domestic violence pilot program to co-locate a domestic violence advocate in department of social and health services offices, had a hearing in the Early Learning & Children's Services Committee. Seattle signed in **support of this measure.**

Hazardous Waste

ESHB 1024, which phases out the use of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs, a flame retardant), passed the House by a vote of 74-24. After July 1, 2008, PBDEs will no longer be able to be sold in products in the state. The Fire Safety Committee will determine what alternatives are available for fire suppression. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Health Care

HB 5093 assures that all children below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) will have health care coverage by 2010. This bill passed out of the Senate by a vote of 38-9 and will be heard in the House Appropriations Committee on February 20. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Housing

HB 2014, addressing the regulation of conversion condominiums, was heard in the Housing Committee. Concerns were raised in this hearing related to having no cap on the amount of relocation assistance (a suggestion was made to cap it at three times the rent), and restrictions on construction. We are trying to work with stakeholders to resolve these issues. **Seattle supports this bill.**

SGA 9223, appointing Richard McIver to the Housing Finance Commission, will be heard in the Consumer Protection & Housing Committee on February 22. **Seattle supports this appointment.**

Libraries

HB 2058, administering the Washington talking book and Braille library, has been re-referred to the Capital Budget Committee. This bill transfers the ownership of the library to the State. **Seattle opposes this bill.**

Public Safety

SHB 1811, regarding automatic sprinkler systems in nightclubs, was voted out of the Local Government Committee and referred to the Finance Committee. Its companion, **SB 5832**, was heard in the Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

SSB 5060, changing the seriousness level for attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle, was voted out of the Judiciary Committee and referred to the Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports this measure.**

SHB 1001, combating auto theft, was voted out of the Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee and was referred to the Human Services Committee, which also had a hearing. The fee was changed to a \$10 per- traffic infraction because the insurance industry objected to the 50-cent auto insurance fee.

Telecommunications and Cable

SB 6003, promoting competition for cable television service by providing statewide authorization for private entities to provide cable service or video service in competition with incumbent cable television operators, will be heard in the Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee. This bill provides for statewide franchises. **Seattle opposes this measure.**